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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CB, US

SUBJ: STAFFDEL INTEREST IN U.S. AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE

REFI: STATE 43508

1. FOLLOWING DESCRIBES DISCUSSIONS OF AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE  
BY STAFFDEL BRADY - SULLIVAN.

2. AT USSAG STAFFDEL ASKED ABOUT EXTENT OF AERIAL RECON-  
NAISSANCE (AR) AND WAS TOLD USSAG DIRECTED AR OVER SOUTH  
VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA, BUT NOT NORTH VIETNAM. THEY WERE  
TOLD THAT AS LONG AS USSAG HAD THE MISSION OF REINTRODUCING  
AIR UNITS INTO INDOCHINA IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO CONDUCT AR OF  
THIS SORT. STAFFDEL DID NOT QUARREL WITH THIS LOGIC, BUT  
INDICATED CONGRESS MIGHT BE SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE WISDOM OF  
MAINTAINING COMMAND IN INDOCHINA WITH THIS MISSION.  
SIMILAR DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE AT EMBASSY.

3. AT 13TH ADVON, BRADY AND SULLIVAN RAISED ONLY ONE  
QUESTION. THEY ASKED IF RG-4S WERE CARRYING BOMBS.  
THEY WERE TOLD NO. IN ADDITION THEY INSPECTED SEVERAL  
RF-4S ON THE GROUND AT UDORN. STAFFDEL REMARKED THAT THEY  
COULD SEE WHERE AN OBSERVER COULD MISTAKE THE PODS AND  
EXTERNAL FUEL TANKS FOR BOMBS. THEY WERE ASSURED THERE  
ARE NO BOMBS ON THE RECCE AIRCRAFT.

4. STAFFDEL WAS NOT HOSTILE DURING QUESTIONING BUT WAS  
GENERALLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT WILLINGNESS OF CONGRESS TO  
CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OR TOLERATE ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH  
INDOCHINA. THEY DID NOT INDICATE THERE WOULD BE A CON-  
GRESSIONAL ATTACK DIRECTED SPECIFICALLY AGAINST AERIAL  
RECONNAISSANCE AS BEING IN VIOLATION OF PARIS ACCORDS OR  
CONGRESSIONAL INTENT. KINTNER

State Dept. review completed